

LITERARY NOTES.

A complete translation of the letters of Cicero is in course of preparation by Mr. Evelyn Shuckburgh, of Cambridge. It is the first complete translation into English. The first volume of the four in which it will appear is nearly ready for publication.

The heretofore unpublished correspondence of Lamb and Hazlitt just brought out by William Carew Hazlitt shows some interesting if not strictly important passages. There is a characteristic reference in one of Lamb's notes to a traditional English dish as "plumb-pudding"—"I always spell plumb-pudding with a 'b'," he says, "pl-u-m-b-I think it reads fatter and more suetly." One of Lamb's epistles to William Home in 1826 runs thus:

Dear Home—Having occasion to write to Clarke I put in a bit to you. I see no Extracts were at all made of your letters. You should have three sets in hand, one long one in particular from Atreus and Thyestes, terribly fine. Don't spare 'em; with fragments, divided as you please, they'll hold out to Xmas. What I have to say is enjoined me most seriously to say to you by Moxon. Their country customers grieve at getting the Table Book so late. It is indispensable it should appear on Friday. Do it but once, & you'll never know the difference.

Fable.

A boy at my school, a cunning fox, for one penny ensnared himself a hot roll & butter every morning for ever. Some favor'd ones were at last to say to you by Moxon. Their country customers grieve at getting the Table Book so late. It is indispensable it should appear on Friday. Do it but once, & you'll never know the difference.

Bring out the next No. on Friday, for country correspondents' sake.

A copy of verses by Lamb, in honor of the daughters of Vincent Novello, is addressed "For Saint Cecilia, at Signor Vincenzo Novello's Music Repository, No. 67 Fifth-street, N.Y." Here it is:

THE SISTERS.

On Emma's honest brow we read display'd
The constant virtues of the Nut Brown Maid;
Melodious sounds on Clara's tongue we hear
Notes that once lured a Seraph from his sphere;
Cecilia's eyes such winning beauties crown
As without song might draw her Angel down.

Mr. James Bryce in his address on "Reading" before the British "Home Reading Union" uttered some suggestive sentences. "In order," he said, "that reading may mean, as it ought to mean, appropriation and the taking up and making part of one's self the ideas one receives, two things are necessary. One of these is, of course, a certain measure of natural faculty. In some people the natural faculty of the brain and the mind is a great deal more acute, more

swift, more powerful than it is in others; and of course there will be the persons who will read fastest, who will appropriate most completely, and in whom the reaction will be most prompt and energetic; and indeed there is hardly a better test of mental power than the capacity of rapidly reading and appropriating a book. I have sometimes thought if this capacity were tested in a competitive examination it might be one of the best tests that could be used. You will find that the people of great mental power are almost always capable of rapidly reading and digesting the contents of a book. Some of the scholars of the Renaissance whose attainments in learning are almost inconceivable to us were distinguished by this more than anything else. I do not think you could have had a more remarkable example than Macaulay; if you read through the list of books he was able to go through in the course of a few weeks or months, and that in a way that made him take the whole of them in, very often accompanied by annotating the books, you will realize with admiration the powers of mind such swift reading required. This faculty is, of course, a faculty we owe to nature; we may improve it, but it is given to some in large measure and to others in small measure. That is one of the two things—to be able to appropriate quickly. But the other thing is largely within our power; that is, concentration, the power of fixing the attention steadily upon that which is being heard or read." Mr. Bryce advised those who have not much time to confine their attention to two or three lines of reading, and he recommended the taking of notes.

The compiler of "Book Prices Current" notes in the new volume a tendency in purchasers to "specialize," with a corresponding decline in the passion for forming general libraries. This he attributes in great part to the multiplication of public general libraries easily accessible for consultation. On the whole, however, there is a steady and remarkable rise from year to year in prices. Concerning the Kelmscott Press he says: "Perhaps the most extraordinary incident in the book world is the position now assumed by the Kelmscott Press, which has been so fortunate as these, but all with rare exceptions, are worth much more now than they were twelve months ago."

Mr. H. G. Wells is writing a new novel in the vein of "The War of the Worlds." Mr. W. E. Norris has completed one called "The Flower of the Pluck."

Books and Publications.

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Foreclosure Sales.

SUPREME COURT, New York County.

George Innes, Plaintiff, against Thomas H. Bell and others. Defendants.

In pursuance of a judgment of foreclosure and sale duly made and entered in the above entitled action, bearing date the 14th day of November, 1899, I, the undersigned, the referee in said judgment named, will sell at public auction at the New York Real Estate Salesroom, No. 111 Broadway, in the Borough of Manhattan, City of New York, on the 8th day of December, 1900, at 12 o'clock noon on that day, by Peter F. Meyer, Auctioneer, the premises directed by said judgment to be sold and therein described as follows:

All that certain lot, piece or parcel of land with the building thereon standing, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Manhattan, City of New York, bounded and described as follows: Beginning at a point on the northerly side of One hundred and eighth street distant two hundred and fifty feet from the corner formed by the intersection of the northerly side of One hundred and eighth street with the easterly side of Amsterdam Avenue; running thence northerly and parallel with said easterly side of Amsterdam Avenue a distance of one hundred and eighty feet to the corner formed by the intersection of the northerly side of One hundred and eighth street with the easterly side of Amsterdam Avenue; running thence easterly and parallel with said easterly side of Amsterdam Avenue a distance of one hundred and eighty feet to the corner formed by the intersection of the northerly side of One hundred and eighth street with the easterly side of Amsterdam Avenue; running thence northerly and parallel with said easterly side of Amsterdam Avenue a distance of one hundred and eighty feet to the corner formed by the intersection of the northerly side of One hundred and eighth street with the easterly side of Amsterdam Avenue; 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